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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SELECTMEN

FOR THE

# TOWN OF MEREDITH,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1855.

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# THE SEASIDE ALBUM

BY G. D.

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## THE SEASIDE ALBUM

FOR THE BABY EDITION MARCH 1888

THE SEASIDE ALBUM

## SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

*The Selectmen charge themselves as follows :—*

To Cash received of Hiram French, Treasurer	\$62 75
"    "    "    "    "    from county	44 17
"    "    Noah Robinson, agent	14 75
"    "    E. S. Cate, on collector's list of 1853	100 00
"    "    Literary fund, 1854	186 58
"    "    John H. Moulton, on note, by receipt	20 00
"    "    D. R Lovejoy on collector's list of 1853	10 81
"    "    S. L. Lawrence    "    "    "	10 00
"    Borrowed of Gideon Piper, note dated Feb. 24, 1855	167 00
"    "    "    "    "    "    14, 1855	33 00
"    "    Francis Hawkins' note, dated May, 1854	150 00
"    Received of Lane Plummer, Town Treasurer	109 10
Bills received of H. French, last year as cash	61 75
	\$969 91

*The Selectmen credit themselves as follows :—*

Paid James M. Robinson for boarding selectmen, 1853	\$7 60
H. N. Burnham	13 04
Taylor L. Grant for services as selectman	6 00
Cole, Davis & Co., for lumber	103 58
Chas. P. Towle for services on committee	4 00
Belknap Insurance Company, bill assessments	12 58
Giles Leach for Parsonage interest 2 years	16 00
Harris P. Hill for Wm. Prescott, 1853	5 42
Lucinda Gott for	6 00
Town of Centre Harbor for Wm. Prescott	5 69
Dr. A. A. Moulton for doctoring poor at alms house & other poor in 3d Division, 1853	68 50
Smith Swain, as auditor last year	2 00
Bills received of H. French as cash paid T. L. Grant & oth- ers last year	61 75
	\$312 16

Cole, Davis & Co., for Thomas Lovitt, county pauper	\$19 94
Dr. Mason for Stephen Boardman	12 00
James Hussey for boarding selectmen 1854	11 25
"    "    "    "    "    "	9 75
Ephraim Mallard for 2 coffins	10 00
A. G. Folsom for supplies for Luther Bean	3 65
Town of Gilford for Luther Bean	1 00
Garland & Ayer for Luther Bean	23 43
Town of Moultonborough for Geo. A. Leavitt's family	21 95
Geo. A. Leavitt for support of his family	13 25
County Commissioner's bill, discontinuing Gordon Road	33 40

Paid Mugridge & Verrill for wood	4 13
C. C. Tebbetts, doctoring Joel Dockham's family	10 50
D. S. Prescott, doctoring H. C. Smith and child	15 77
E. S. Flanders damage on highway	20 00
Smith Swain for plank	4 48
John Webster enrolling militia	3 50
Thomas J. Chase for lumber for farm	6 32
Edward Chase for plank	3 50
Sanborn Roberts for keeping Henry Mudgett	7 00
Moses. P. Piper for plank	2 83
Beef for alms house	19 00
James C. Wadleigh work on Turnpike road	3 75
Expense to Concord on Paul case and stationery	2 60
Interest on borrowed money	3 41
Sundry bills for labor on Stanton road	40 78
David Clough, county pauper	20 00
Israel I. Wells, Hill pauper	5 63
Labor on Turnpike road	17 00
Joseph Plummer road	19 20
G. L. Sibley for services as selectman	71 00
do For town paupers, expenses, books, &c., &c.	66 70
L. D. Davis for services as selectman	68 00
do Expenses	26 13
Gideon Piper services as selectman	55 00
do Expenses	1 90
	\$969 91

The Selectmen also charge themselves with the following items:

The amount of assessment of State Tax	\$606 20
" " County Tax	1,103 89
" " School Tax	1,299 00
" " Teachers' Institute	38 97
" " Town Tax	3,000 00
" " Tax for Town House	750 00
" " Stanton Hill	100 00
balance due on Collector's list of 1853	170 11
	\$7,068 17

And credit themselves as follows:

By assessment of tax and committing to E. S. Cate,	
Collector for first division	\$3,609 71
to E. K. Leavitt for the 2d division	1,443 93
to D. R. Lovejoy for the 3d division	1,953 04
Add balance on Collector's lists for 1853	170 11
	\$7,176 79

The amount assessed exceeding the amount voted to be raised as the law allows	\$108 62
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Settled bills for External poor by orders on town Treasurer—

Garland & Ayer for doctoring Charles Hackett	\$9 45
Town Gilford for L. Bean and J. L. Mudgett	14 58
H. Sibley & Co., for supplies for Luther Bean	16 16
" " for Charles Hackett	8 88
" " for Doreas A. Paul	64 72
" " for Thomas Chatte	6 00

H. Sibley & Co. for supplies for W. H. Kelley	4 11
" " for John Quimby	8 31
" " for Joel Dockham	5 00
" " for Moses Pickering	7 00
F. B. Ayer for doctoring John Farrar	62 75
" " P. Fitzgerald, County	11 75
" " John Webster, New Hampton	3 00
" " Wm. Bennett, New Hampton	12 30
L. L. Rand for support of Lewis boy	14 50
O. Goss for doctoring Webster family, New Hampton	5 50
" " P. Fitzgerald, County	12 50
" " R. Bedee, Sandwich	10 00
" " Chas. B. Hall, Sandwich	10 00
" " poor in first division	22 00
Geo. A. Leavitt for support of his family	13 00
Simeon Taylor for support of his family	40 00
J. A. Dana for doctoring S. Taylor's family, 1853	5 00
Hanson Bedee for moving paupers to Alms House	11 67
John Burnham for Mrs. Tilton	9 50
John Sanborn for doctoring Henry Moulton's family	9 00
" " David Clough	2 09
" " Mrs. Smith and child	4 75
" " Mrs. John Elliott	4 16
Shepard Rowe for keeping Mrs. C. A. Davis	23 00
Stevens & Smith for supplies for P. McCrillis' family	23 00
" " for Geo. A. Leavitt	2 00
" " for Theophilus Dockham	5 00
Division 168 for supplies for Chase Pike	2 85
" " for M. Cummings, New Hampton	13 28
" " for Ephraim Berry, Tamworth	2 00
" " for Geo. A. Leavitt	5 62
" " for Mrs. Tilton	5 00
Isaac Farrar for taking care of John Farrar	130 00
Daniel Smith for taking care of Smith child	8 00
J. W. Lang for Melissa Fogg and Wm. Prescott	50 94
C. C. Nicholson for John L. Mudgett's family	4 50
C. C. Tebbets for doctoring John Quimby	13 00
" " Joel Dockham	3 00
Christopher Chapman for Mrs. Mercy Farrar	2 50
J. V. Barron & Co., for supplies for Mrs. Tilton	3 00
J. P. F. Smith house rent for Mrs. Tilton	9 00
James Hussey for Jackson family, strangers	5 10
Daniel Hilton for coffin for Mrs. Lovejoy, 1853	5 00
	\$723 47
<b>For Alms House.</b>	
J. V. Barron & Co., for supplies	\$253 25
Joseph W. Lang for supplies	106 21
Division 168 for supplies	91 40
Daniel Hilton, coffin for S. Boardman	5 00
J. F. Caverly, boots and shoes	30 00
Lane Plummer, supplies for farm	2 71
Daniel Hilton for two coffins	8 50
	\$497 07

**Expenditures.**

Paid King S. Hall, School Commissioner	\$38 97
Simeon Cate for parsonage interest, 1853	7 75
Noah Robinson " " "	11 40
Francis Russell " " "	11 00
Simeon Cate " " 1854	7 75
Baldwin & Farrington for printing, 1853	50 00
J. J. Garmon, cleaning guns, 1853	7 25
B. F. Wiggin, service as constable	2 00
David Corliss, Jr., service as constable	2 00
David Blaisdell, service and firewood	6 75
Jos. P. Pitman, services as auditor	2 00
Daniel Hilton, furniture for Alms House	10 72
Simeon D. Pease, services as constable	2 00
Abram Bryant for parsonage interest, 1853	4 50
Benj. Bachelder " " "	12 40
Thomas D. Veazey " " "	4 00
John Haynes " " 1854	20 00
Daniel Smith " " 1852-3	18 00
Josiah Piper " " 1853	3 20
James Hussey for boarding Selectmen	10 40
Daniel Wiggin for services as Selectman, 1853	5 00
	\$237 09

**Roads and Bridges.**

Paid Josiah Moulton, plank for Weirs bridge	10 56
John S. Wadleigh, repairing cattle pass	4 50
Warren Lovell for discontinuing Gordon road	12 00
N. B. Wadleigh for lumber	33 29
Jona. Brown, damage on highway, 1853	8 33
R. M. Nichols " " "	10 33
R. M. Nichols, work on Senter hill	4 50
James Bickford bill on boat, 1853	2 00
J. P. F. Smith, bill of lumber	49 53
Hanson Beede, damage on highway	3 50
James Dearborn for guide boards	8 50
Abel B. Eastman, repairing water course	1 50
Levi S. Swain do do do	2 00
J. B. Swain for plank	5 50
John S. Dolloff for plank and labor	11 80
James M. Marston for plank	1 28
John C. Gove, stone for water course	1 12
David Edgerly for plank	3 05
Smith M. Lawrence, work on Stanton hill &c.,	22 87
Lane Plummer, work on Stanton hill	4 20
Paul H. Stanton, work on Stanton hill	2 80
Jeremiah M. Smith " " "	2 00
John C. Gove " " "	7 70
Warren L. Glidden " " "	8 50
E. K. Leavitt " " "	4 00
Joseph W. Robinson lumber and labor on road	5 77
Glidden & Corliss for blacksmith work	1 44
Cole, Davis & Co. for lumber	43 95
Geo. W. Swain for lumber and labor on canal bridge, 1853	13 00

Paid J. F. Perkins, work on Stanton hill	3 60
James C. Wadleigh, repairing road, 1853	4 59
" " " " 1854	7 97
David Philbrick & Co. for blacksmith work	4 30
Hiram Crockett for work on Stanton hill	3 00

### For Breaking Roads.

Paid Augustus Doe, breaking road and damage, 1853-4	\$28 50
Joshua Wiggin " &c.	13 95
Francis Hawkins, breaking road winter of 1853-4	1 00
Abram Perkins " "	14 45
John Chapman " "	12 00
T. J. Robinson " "	15 30
Charles R. Swain "	25 70
Joshua B. Robinson "	4 90
Joseph Neal "	10 25
Jacob Smith "	25 80
Wm. H. Mead "	26 61
John Nealley "	21 85
John L. Perley "	7 70
Charles Smith, Esq "	18 30
Smith Neal "	7 20
James M. Robinson "	27 69
Andrew Pickering "	8 87
David Robinson "	3 45
Jas. Dearborn "	1 45
Horace L. Garland "	1 02
Winthrop Wiggin "	2 65
Thomas Roberts "	2 54
Daniel Wiggin "	50
Wm. Mead "	6 39
Abram Bryant "	3 30
Levi Towle "	4 05
Jacob Watson "	1 25
Bracket Carr "	95
Joseph Drew "	9 87
Richard Neal "	7 20
Charles P. Towle "	5 05
Joseph Prescott "	50
John Garland "	1 40
Arthur E. Leavitt "	60
Elias Philbrick "	5 75
Charles Leavitt "	1 15
John Leavitt "	2 60
Chase Wiggin "	60
J. G. Goodhue "	60
Nelson True "	1 00
Isaac Leavitt "	2 00
Jona. Brown, Jr.	40 45
L. M. Babb "	3 10
P. P. Nichols "	3 10
James Gilman "	3 40
John M. Eaton "	60
John Eaton "	3 55

Paid Zephaniah P. Eaton breaking road winter of 1853-4	1	75
David Gilman	2	00
B. B. Rollins	2	65
John Nichols	3	25
David Clark	2	75
Nathaniel Sayward	60	
Josiah S. Prescott	2	40
Joseph R. Mead		80
Daniel Chase	1	25
Ebenezer Dow	50	
Pierce H. Bryant	2	20
James Bickford	2	50
John L. Osgood	6	35
Charles L. Wadleigh	19	70
Charles Bickford	11	61
Stephen Boardman	7	93
James Roberts	2	27
David Tilton	6	20
Thomas D. Veazey	9	30
L. D. Dolloff	23	40
Robert E. Downing	11	25
Noah W. Smith	34	00
Jacob Swain	23	00
Joseph S. Hart	22	60
David Edgerly	17	60
John Perkins	9	50
Daniel P. Smith	7	00
Bradstreet Leavitt	34	00
Luther M. Chase	5	00
Samuel Sanborn	26	94
Aaron Sanborn	15	90
Moses Plummer	5	50
Benj. C. Batchelder	5	00
Abel B. Eastman	7	15
Abram True	10	80
Thomas Leavitt	4	00
S. C. Drake	4	00
John L. Flanders	8	55
Shepard Rowe	12	70
Simeon D. Pease	11	67
Salmon H. Sanborn	7	25
Benj. Batchelder	16	05
Wm. M. Edgerly	8	83
Ebenezer K. Leavitt	10	60
Stephen S. Kimball	10	33
John Leavitt	10	00
John Piper	11	42
Reuben Giles	3	80
Moses C. Pease	20	13
Smith M. Lawrence	11	60
Joseph W. Robinson	10	70
Ebenezer Stevens	3	30
Harbert Lovejoy	1	10
James C. Wadleigh	7	88
D. R. Lovejoy	1	20

Paid Gideon Piper, breaking road winter of 1853-4	16 50
Reuben Giles " "	1 75
Levi S. Swain " "	15 74
Jeremiah Jenness " "	4 10
Alfred Boardman " "	2 95
Jacob Watson " "	1 30
	—
	\$938 56

### Recapitulation.

Bills settled by orders on town treasurer for External poor.....	\$723 87
do do do do Roads and Bridges.....	312 98
do do do do Breaking Roads.....	938 56
do do do do Alms House.....	485 86
do do do do Expenditures.....	240 29
Bills settled by expenditures in cash.....	969 91
Order given town house committee.....	750 00
	—
	\$4,421 47

### Bills settled in above that were due prior to March 1, 1854.

In cash expenditures.....	\$196 29
In expenditures by orders.....	143 25
In roads and bridges.....	38 25
In breaking roads.....	937 26
In external poor.....	312 16—\$1,627 21

Amount appropriated to schools.....	\$1,753 24
Amount paid over to schools.....	1,507 43
Amount due in collector's hands to pay over to schools.....	\$245 81

### Due the Town on Collector's List.

E. S. Cate	\$1,162 56
E. K. Leavitt	5 49
D. R. Lovejoy	26 92
S. L. Lawrence, 1853	24 13
Bartlett Hill, 1850	25 04
Amos Cram, 1852	2 80—\$2,246 94

Due the town from County for David Clough	\$31 25
" " for Thurston	21 00
" " for Thomas Chattele	6 00
" from towns for paupers, about	60 00— \$118 25
	—
	\$2,365 19

Due from town to L. D. Dolloff for work on Stanton Hill	\$2 00
" to Gideon Piper, note dated Feb. 24, 1855	167 00
" " "	33 00
" to John Sanborn, doctoring poor at Alms House and in 3d division	50 00
" to Simeon Taylor for support of family by agreement	25 00
" to Nathaniel Sanborn, note dated June 22, 1854	62 23
" to Thomas L. Smith, note dated March 6, 1855	147 78

Due from town to Stephen J. Pitman, services as Clerk	24 00
"        to Glidden and Corliss, about	6 00
"        for breaking roads, estimated	1,300 00
	<hr/> \$1,817 00

All of which is respectfully submitted,—

GEO. L. SIBLEY, } Selectmen  
GIDEON PIPER, } of  
L. D. DAVIS, } Meredith.

The undersigned having examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen, find them correctly cast and well vouched.

JOSEPH W. LANG, Auditor.

# R E P O R T

Of affairs at the Alms House for the year ending March 1, 1855.

## Invoice of Property at the Alms House.

2 Oxen	150 00	2 Shoats	40 00
4 Cows	110 00	800 Pounds Beef	64 00
7 Tons Hay	120 00	500 " Pork	62 50
20 Bushels Corn	26 67	6 Bushels Beans	12 00
150 " Potatoes	90 00	205 Pounds Ham and ribs	20 50
16 " Oats	9 60	Pickles and tub	1 50
75 Pounds Lard	10 50	6 Cider casks	6 00
25 " Tallow	3 50	50 Cords Wood	75 00
20 " Butter	4 40	Shingles	3 00
40 " Dried Apples	2 40	Lumber	12 00
Flour and Meal	16 00	Amount of other column	543 07
Amount of farming tools, beds, clothing, bedding, furniture, &c.			660 00
			<u>\$1,499 57</u>

Amount at the Alms House March 1, 1854	\$1,433 26
Paid for necessities for the past year	485 66
Interest on purchase money of farm	99 00
Overseers for past year	210 00—
Amount for support of paupers at Alms House for the past year	<u>\$2,227 82</u>
	\$728 25
Reported due from County last year	\$95 88
The County paid	<u>44 17</u>
And refuse to pay the balance	<u>\$51 71</u>

GEO. L. SIBLEY, } Overseers  
GIDEON PIPER, } of  
L. D. DAVIS, } the Poor.

## Names and Ages of Persons at the Alms House.

### Males.

John Tilton	65	Rhoda Farrar	56
Chase Crockett	72	Sally Cotton	43
Caleb Swain	66	Jane Dow	76
John Osgood	44	Dolly Nichols	78
James Y. Osgood	11	Clara A. Osgood	40
John H. Osgood	7	Nancy Dockham	28
John Farrar	56	Mary Dockham	6
George W. Dockham	40	Clara Ann Dockham	6
Oren Dockham	4		<i>Died the past year.</i>
John M. Sanborn	39		
George E. Mudgett	8	Stephen Boardman	
Henry Mudgett	2	Hannah Smith	

### Females.

Olive Hill	44	Harriet Smith
		Laura J. Dockham

## ABATEMENTS.

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*List of Abatements in E. S. Cate's list for 1853.*

James S. Anderson	\$1 44	Charles P. Hull	\$1 44
Aaron Aldrich	1 44	George W. Ham	1 44
Arthur Atwood	1 44	Sophronia Lawrence	2 44
William Bennet	1 44	L. B. Mathews	1 44
John Raxter	1 44	Simon Nichols	1 44
Henry Bean, Jr.	1 95	Christopher Nickerson	1 44
Wm. & G. Barker	1 28	C. O. Osgood	1 44
Eliza Buswell	1 28	Ruth H. Osgood	2 06
John C. Carroll	1 44	Josiah S. Piper	1 44
John D. Coffin	1 44	Charles Pearson	1 44
Ebenezer Clark	1 44	John Piper, Jr.	44
Horace Dudley	1 44	J. C. Preston, (error)	1 44
Susan Emery	1 38	John Quimby	1 44
Nathaniel Glidden	1 44	George Stiles, (error)	1 44
Elbridge Garmon	1 44	Benjamin Swain	1 44
J. P. Garland	1 44	Owen Sullivan	1 44
George Griffin, (error)	1 44	John L. Swain	1 54
Caleb Gilman "	1 54	Moses Stevens	1 44
Obed Gray "	1 44	True Spiller	1 44
Isaac Harris	1 44	Samuel Thompson	1 44
Charles Hackett	1 44	James Thompson	1 44
Parker P. Hunt	1 44	John Wright	1 44
John H. Hodgdon	1 44	Andrew Wadleigh	1 44
Amasa Horn	1 44	John Weymouth (error)	1 44
George Hilliard	2 43	James Wright	1 44
Andrew Young	1 44		
			\$75 38

*Abatements in School District No. 2, for money raised for repairing  
School House, in E. S. Cate's list.*

John Busiel, Jr.	\$0 18	Eunice Small	\$0 53
Robert Bedee	26	John Piper, Jr.	18
Ebenezer Clark	18	Levi W. Smith	18
H. M. Carter	18	George W. Symes	18
Simeon S. Drake	18	Owen Sullivan	18
Hiram Davis	18	True Spiller	18
John Dole	18	John Q. Swain	18
Obed Gray	18	Andrew Wadleigh	18
E. A. Gilman	08	John P. Weymouth	18
Nathaniel Glidden	18	James Wright	18
Abigail Leavitt	08	Aaron Young	31
Christopher Nickerson	18	Andrew W. Young	18
C. O. Osgood	68	John Wentworth	18
Charles Pearson	18		
			\$5 72

*Abatements in Samuel L. Lawrence's list, 1853.*

David W. Wilson	\$4 01	Leavitt W. Dolloff	\$1 44
Samuel Swain	1 44		
			<hr/> \$6 89

*Abatements in Ebenezer K. Leavitt's list for 1854*

Thaddeus Cothren	\$1 24	Stephen Smith	\$1 84
Mark Davis (error)	1 43	Israel I. Wells	1 85
Francis Hall	1 72		
			<hr/> \$8 88

*Abatements in D. R. Lovejoy's list for 1853.*

Noah Rollins	\$1 53	George H. Follett	\$1 74
John P. Huntress	1 44	Samuel B. Goodwin	1 74
Jacob Watson	29	H. P. Hollis	1 74
	<hr/>	Josiah P. Leavitt	1 72
	\$3 26	Stephen Lovejoy	1 74
For 1854.		Lamine C. Libbey	1 72
Henry Adams	\$1 74	George Miller	1 74
Ebenezer Bickford (error)	1 00	Jacob Watson	55
Martin Brees	1 74	Jonathan P. Cram	4 87
Ephraim Berry	1 74	Dudley Kelley, Jr.	3 67
Almon Brown	1 74	Herbert Lovejoy (error)	2 30
John Elliott	1 74	Richard Kelley	1 14
Benjamin Follins	1 81		
			<hr/> \$36 18

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Town of Meredith in account with Lane Plummer, Treasurer, Cr.*

By cash received of E. S. Cate, Collector of 1st Division	880 00
"        "    E. K. Leavitt "    2d "    1,031 29	
"        "    D. R. Lovjoy "    3d "    751 38	
"        "    State for Railroad Tax	694 00
	<hr/> \$3,356 67

Dr.	Paid to Order,	Dr.	
To Thomas D. Veasey	\$ 9 30	To Simeon Cate	\$ 7 75
R. E. Downing	11 25	Simeon D. Pease	11 67
L. D. Dolloff	23 40	Shephard Rowe	12 70
Noah W. Smith	34 00	Benja. Batchelder	16 05
Shephard Rowe	23 00	James C. Wadleigh	24 66
Charles Bickford	11 61	Eben. K. Leavitt	10 60
James Roberts	8 47	John L. Flanders	8 55
J. W. Lang	20 00	Thomas Leavitt	4 00
John C. Gove	7 70	Levi S. Swain	2 00
Daniel P. Smith	7 00	James M. Marston	1 28
Warren L. Glidden	8 50	Lane Plummer	4 20
E. K. Leavitt	4 00	M. C. Pease	20 13
J. Fred Perkins	3 60	S. S. Kimball	10 33
Glidden & Corliss	1 44	John S. Dolloff	11 80
Jacob Swain	23 00	Thomas D. Veasey	4 00
Joseph S. Hart	22 60	John Piper	1 42
Smith M. Lawrence	34 47	John C. Gove	1 12
R. M. Nichols	14 83	John Leavitt	7 32
Jona. Brown, Jr.	40 45	Smith Neal	7 20
Jere. M. Smith	2 00	Francis Russell	11 00
B. Leavitt	34 00	H. Sibley & Co.	25 04
P. H. Stanton	2 80	Joshua Wiggin	13 95
P. H. Bryant	2 20	Augustus Doe	8 00
David Edgerly	20 65	John S. Wadleigh	4 50
Samuel Sanborn	26 94	K. S. Hall	38 90
John Nealey	21 85	Noah Robinson	11 40
Abel B. Eastman	8 65	J. J. Garmon	7 25
Joseph W. Robinson	16 47	T. J. Robinson	15 30
Aaron Sanborn	15 90	Wm. H. Mead	26 61
Abram True	10 80	Garland & Ayer	9 45
Luther M. Chase	5 00	J. T. Weeks	14 58
Simeon Drake	4 00	Augustus Doe	20 50
John Perkins	9 50	Charles Smith	18 30
Benja. Batchelder	12 40	John Chapman	12 00
Thomas L. Smith	8 50	A. Pickering	8 87
Wm. M. Edgerly	8 83	J. Moulton, Jr.	10 56
Moses Plummer	5 50	Abram Perkins	15 45
Charles R. Swain	25 70	J. R. Robinson	4 90
S. H. Sanborn	7 25	Joseph Neal	10 25

To J. L. Perley	\$ 7 70	To Richard Neal	\$ 7 20
Jacob Smith	25 80	John Nichols	3 25
Ebenezer S. Cate	2 00	Daniel Chase	1 25
Joseph P. Pitman	2 00	S. Boardman	7 93
B. F. Wiggin	2 00	C. P. Towle	4 00
N. B. Wadleigh	33 29	Z. P. Eaton	1 75
Geo. W. Swain	13 00	C. Chapman	2 50
B. F. Ayer	89 80	James Bickford	2 50
J. M. Robinson	27 69	David Robinson	3 45
Simeon C. Pease	2 00	David Tilton	6 20
J. S. Vittum	120 57	John Burnham	9 50
L. Plummer & Co.	2 71	W. Wiggin	5 69
Isaac Farrar	130 00	H. Lovejoy	1 10
S. J. Philbrick	4 30	G. W. Gilman	9 50
H. Sibley &c.	95 76	N. Sayward	60
Warren Lovell	10 00	D. R. Lovejoy	5 70
L. L. Rand	14 50	J. R. Mead	80
Oliver Goss	60 00	Ebenezer Dow	50
B. C. Batchelder	5 00	J. S. Prescott	2 40
J. L. Osgood	6 35	Charles Wadleigh	19 70
John Garland	1 40	James Gilman	3 40
Simeon Taylor	25 00	J. M. Eaton	60
Geo. A. Leavitt	13 00	David Gilman	2 00
A. E Leavitt	60	H. L. Garland	1 02
David Corlis, Jr.	2 00	Ebenezer Stevens	3 30
B. B. Rollins	2 65	Simeon Cate	7 75
B. Carr	95	Daniel P. Smith	8 00
Charles Leavitt	1 15	D. B. Plumer	8 43
J. P. F. Smith	49 53	Reuben Giles	3 80
Jacob Watson	1 30	E. K. Leavitt	3 00
John Eaton	3 55	Gideon Piper	16 15
Joseph Drew	9 87	Jere. B. Swain	5 50
Abram Bryant	3 30	John F. Caverly	30 00
C. P. Towle	5 05	Building Committee of	
Elias Philbrick	5 75	Town House	750 00
David Clark	2 75	J. W. Lang	157 15
Levi Towle	4 05	Gideon Piper	56 90
Isaac Leavitt	2 00	Daniel Smith	18 00
Chase Wiggins	60	Alfred Boardman	2 95
John Sanborn	20 00	Daniel Wiggin	5 00
John Leavitt	2 60	James Hussey	15 50
Hanson Bedee	15 17	George L. Sibley	10 81
Joseph Prescott	50	L. D. Davis	41 39
James Bickford	2 00	Stevens & Smith	30 00
G. G. Goodhue	60	Lane Plummer	12 00
Wm. Mead	6 39	Josiah Piper	3 20
Jacob Watson	1 25	J. V. Barion, in part	195 34
Nelson True	1 00	Selectmen, per receipt	12 00
Jona. Brown	8 33		
			\$3,356 67

LANE PLUMMER, *Treasurer.*

The undersigned having examined the foregoing accounts of the Treasurer, find them correctly cast and well vouched.

JOSEPH W. LANG, *Auditor.*

## REPORT

*Of the Superintending School Committee of the town of Meredith.*

We have endeavored to discharge the duties devolved on us to the best of our ability; still we find it impracticable to make an accurate report of the condition of the schools, especially of statistics, owing in part to the dereliction of duty in Prudential Committees and Teachers, and in part to the fact that some of the schools do not close before the report must go to press. All the teachers who have made application have been duly qualified, and all the schools have been visited at least twice each term when proper notice of their commencement and close has been given. Viewing the schools as a whole, and in all that pertains to their interest and success, we can confidently report an upward tendency. But, to be more definite, as the result of our observation and labors, we beg leave to call your attention to the following topics:—

### Improvement in Study.

We are happy in being able to say that all the schools which we have had the opportunity of examining have made commendable proficiency in the various branches of study that have received attention. As is always the case, some schools have excelled others; some pupils in the same schools have excelled their comrades, and greater advancement is observable in some branches than others. The various causes of this diversity have become too familiar to justify a repetition of them in this connection. The most decided improvement is apparent in the department of *Reading*. More systematic and thorough drilling than formerly in the various elements of good reading has been adopted and has left its mark. This is hailed as an encouraging omen in this primary branch of education which has so long been treated as one of minor importance.

Next to *Reading* there appears to have been most evident improvement in *Arithmetic*. There is manifestly a better acquaintance with the principles and reasons—with “whys and wherefores” of this branch instead of that mechanical repetition of rules and working of examples which are so much to be regretted.

*Geography* and *Grammar* stand next in order of improvement; though, perhaps, pupils in these branches cannot show their attainments to so good advantage in a brief examination as in the other branches mentioned.

In some schools evident improvement is discernible in *Spelling*; still, the spelling book, including the sounds of the letters, &c., is extensively and sadly neglected. In importance it stands with *Reading* and should stand on an equality with it in improvement.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Committee that *Penmanship* receives but a small share of the attention it deserves in our schools. Generally it had better be entirely omitted than to be conducted as it now is. While a few make *tolerable* improvement, the books of others resemble, more than anything else, the comic almanac, the painter's pallet, or the sketch book. Others still, in the words of a citizen, “would exhibit astonishing improvement if you begin at the last page and examine backwards.” We recommend that teachers qualify themselves more thoroughly in this branch, and that more careful attention be given to it in school. It will depend much upon the number of scholars whether this should be a daily or an occasional exercise. When practicable, it is desirable that an hour or so, two or three times a week, should be allotted to writing during which the undivided attention of the teacher should be given to it.

### Method of Instruction.

We observe with great satisfaction increasing attention to the elements of each branch and the analytical method of explanation accompanied with familiar, oral illustrations, all of which we consider indispensable to the foundation of a good practical education. Those schools in which these have been most extensively adopted, appear to best advantage, other things being equal. A mere repetition of questions and answers may be adapted to a school of parrots and admirably fit them for their occupation, but can never teach children to *think*, and practically apply what they learn.

### Government.

The government of the schools as a whole, will, we think, compare favorably with that of former years. Some have excelled, others have been quite too disorderly for profit, while others still exhibit that provoking medium which scarcely admits of either praise or censure. While comparatively few complaints of disorderly schools have been preferred, for some reason this department, to a great extent, complains of culpable neglect. It may be attributed to the want of home government, the indifference of teachers, their fear of scholars or of parents—one or all of these. But its connection with the profit of the schools renders *good order* a desideratum which should by no means be overlooked. Teachers should remember that they have the staff in their own hands. The law will sustain them against any intervention whatever, in maintaining reasonable and efficient discipline. It is hoped that the records of another year will present, in this respect, a decided improvement.

### Attendance.

A large portion of the Registers which have been properly filled exhibit an amount of absence and tardiness to be deplored. Abating all that may be justly marked *necessary*, we think a decided improvement in this respect may and should be made. Tardiness creates great disturbance in the school room, and frequent absence retards progress in study. With regard to this item and that of government—as well as other matters connected with the interests of schools—it devolves by, at least, *moral* obligation upon the parents and friends of scholars to co-operate with the teacher. There is no more efficient way to destroy the order and usefulness of a school than for parents and friends to complain of the teacher, either orally or practically, before the scholars, support them in their rebellion, or even to be indifferent to the teacher's requirements. Arrangements should be made at home for scholars to be absent and tardy as little as possible; and when these delinquencies occur, teachers should carefully enquire into the cause. We recommend that whenever practicable, written excuses be demanded by the teacher and cheerfully granted by the parents. This plan has been adopted this winter by at least one teacher with reference to tardiness, and we think with good effect.

### Teachers.

The literary qualifications of the teachers have been as good as the pecuniary inducements will justify us in expecting—generally better. Some have shown ability to honor any New England school. Teachers' qualifications must, in some measure, conform to the standard of wages. If we would have the first class *teachers* we must pay them first class *wages*. This is not the place to discuss extensively the elements of a good teacher; still there are two practical considerations to which we invite attention.

1st. The importance of mutual adaptation between teachers and scholars. That teachers should stand far above their pupils in literary attainments needs but to be suggested, and we think no teacher should be suffered to commence a school or even be employed till duly qualified. Success is quite as dependent upon social adaptation. We find some schools of a quiet and orderly character; others unruly and vicious. One class demands teachers, though firm, of mild and persuasive manners, the other of a more stern and, perhaps, severe make. Change the order, and in one case the aversion of the scholars is unnecessarily provoked; in the other, anarchy will reign and the profit of both schools will be greatly lessened, while observance of the principle of adaptation will guarantee abundant satisfaction. This illustration is sufficient

To suggest the principle which should be applied to all the social characteristics of teachers and pupils. Without it, the highest literary qualifications will be comparatively useless—with it, a somewhat defective education may accomplish much. In this regard, much depends upon Prudential Committees. They should select teachers with this principle before them. We trust there will be less occasion for such suggestions another year.

2d. Another important, we may say, indispensable quality of good teachers is *energy*—energy of body and mind. There has been a very extensive deficiency in this respect the past year. We do not mean by energy a boisterous, loquacious, pedantic bearing, but a quickness and animation which will throw life into every department of instruction and discipline. Many people are little aware how much is dependent upon this quality of a teacher. The scripture saying, “like people like priest,” with a proper change of phraseology will apply here, *like scholars like teacher*. Energy and ennui in teachers will unavoidably beget their like in scholars, and their respective effects need not be argued. Though one were like Pollok’s character, who was

“Large of understanding,  
Of memory infinite, of judgment deep;  
Who knew all learning and all science knew;”

if he lack energy he cannot keep a *good school*. A district should never employ such an one; and young gentlemen and ladies finding themselves deficient in nervous energy and mental vivacity should never aspire to the teacher’s chair.

### Text Books.

The evil of too great a variety of *Text Books*, still exists in most of the schools. Classes are thus unnecessarily multiplied, and the teacher’s attention is so divided and subdivided upon the same branch of study, as to render the improvement quite disproportionate to the labor expended. The defect here may be chargeable more or less to delinquency at three points. As a committee, we may not have been particular enough to make enquiries; teachers not careful enough to make suggestions, and parents not willing enough to supply such books as the committee may direct. The committee respectfully recommend to their successors, to place in every teacher’s hands, at the commencement of the school, a list of the text books adopted by the Board of Education, with a copy of Chap. 5, Secs. 11 and 13 of the Digest of School Laws. The committee recommend, also, that the higher branches of study be carefully excluded, until there shall be such an increase of funds and lengthening of schools as to justify their introduction. Most of our schools are quite too short to afford the most desirable opportunities for elementary education, even if all the instruction should be applied to this end. Higher English branches than reading, writing, English grammer, arithmetic and geography are, it is true, indirectly recognized in law, but subject to the direction of the Superintending Committee; and when there is abundance of money to secure a competent teacher and a lengthy school, it is desirable that they should receive attention; otherwise they should not take the time of the teacher from the mass of the scholars for the benefit of a few who may wish to pursue them.

### Prudential Committee.

A little investigation will show that it is not only inconvenient, but absolutely impossible for the Superintending Committee to make a proper report unless the Prudential Committees attend carefully to their duty. They should see that every teacher is duly qualified *before commencing school*, notify the Superintending Committee of the commencement and close of the schools in season for proper visits, and see that the Registers are honored by the Superintending Committee before the teachers are honorably discharged.

If Prudential Committees would attend faithfully to these things, they would meet, so far, the provisions of law and render to the Superintending Committee “such information and assistance as may be (are) necessary for the performance of their duties.” Digest, Chap. 2, Sec. 11.

The Digest of school laws—with which every Prudential Committee, and every teacher should be familiar—gives explicit and authoritative information on all these points.

### School Houses.

We are under the painful necessity of reporting little or no improvement in our school houses during the year. We are unwilling to believe that their condition is a truthful index to the enterprise and parental care and tenderness of the good people of Meredith. We choose rather to consider this town an exception, in this regard, to the rule, and attribute the neglect to a want of reflection or the diversion of our energies into other channels, as adorning our meeting houses, public buildings and private mansions, overlooking the evident fact that the ability to appreciate, and the character to adorn these, must, to a great extent, be formed in the school room. The mental tastes and physical habits will necessarily be greatly modified by the beauty and deformity of objects associated with early education, and the tastes and habits of the child *modify*, if they do not *control* those of the man. We make a sad mistake when we build a golden palace and educate our children who are to honor it, in a school house of unnecessary deformity and repulsiveness. More than this; the health and comfort of scholars imperatively demand the improvement of our school houses. Many people are little aware of the extent to which the health and constitution of children are gradually undermined by the unhealthful location of school houses, the impure atmosphere arising from a want of proper ventilation, the currents of air incessantly blowing through open floors and walls and the unnatural position which the seats often force scholars to assume. Many of our school houses present to children, in these respects, a striking contrast with the comfortable quarters they enjoy at home. It is, at least, doubtful whether parents would suffer their children to stay in such places five days and a half out of seven for any other purpose than that of education. If here are acquired the elements of education, here, too, are often sown the seeds of disease and death.

It is the opinion, moreover, of competent judges—it certainly corresponds with reason and observation—that every dollar expended in building commodious, tasteful and comfortable school houses is fully repaid in the consequent enhanced value of real estate in the district; it certainly is so in the benefit accruing to the scholars. It is confidently believed that if these considerations, which have been so often repeated, should be candidly and thoroughly weighed in all their bearings, the committee another year would have the pleasure of reporting new or improved school houses in nearly or quite every district in town.

The committee would here call attention to the fact that it has become a practice in some districts for young people to enter the school houses, lawfully if they can—forcibly if they must, and occupy them as places of social resort—at times in midnight carousals, in violation of the Sabbath and to the disturbance of the neighbors. We recommend that efficient measures be adopted to prevent such disorderly conduct.

### Funds.

The amount of money appropriated for the support of schools this year is as follows:—

Raised by tax.....	\$1,299 00
Received of Literary Fund.....	180 26
Received from the interest of Literary Fund.....	273 98
Total.....	\$1,753 24

This is an increase of \$143,10 over last year. This amount has been appropriated as usual, among the 23 school districts, giving to each district, an average of \$76,23 nearly. For further particulars see statistical table. The committee in attending to their duty have been deeply impressed with the importance of raising a much larger amount of money for educational purposes, either by the town or the districts or both. Many of the districts have far less schooling than they need, and what they have is far less profitable than the same amount would be in a larger school. Wise men need not be reminded that money judiciously appropriated for the education of children and youth is a profitable investment, viewing as they please the moral, social, intellectual or pecuniary returns.

In concluding this report, permit us to urge the importance of a more lively and practical interest in our common schools. Let a commendable spirit of enterprize and emulation be created, and no good reason can be given why Meredith should stand a whit behind any other town similarly situated in the State.

All the present and future interests of society and all the eccentric developments

of the times upon which we have fallen, demand peculiar care of that system which holds so powerful a formative influence over the minds of the rising generation.— Let not the car of progress, freighted with the motley enterprises of the day, run its hazardous race, at its present accelerated velocity without that regulator and brake which can be furnished no where so well as in the thorough training of children and youth in our primary schools.

The following table is as full as the present returns from the schools will allow:—

### Statistical Table.

Districts .....	Money .....	Amount per scholar.....	Teachers Summer wages.....	Teacher's winter wages.....	Winter—No. at 2 weeks.....	Summer—No. at 2 weeks.....	Weeks winter.....	Weeks summer.....	Weeks male teacher.....	Weeks female teacher.....	Whole No. different scholars over 4 years.....	No. between 4 & 14 not at school.	No. between 14 and 21 can neither read nor write.....	Visits by Superintending Com. ....	Visits by Prudential Committee.....	Visits by citizens .....
1 416 41	2 85	*20 00	*32 00	98	92	18	18	18	18	18	146	12	14	3	1	1
2 170 15	1 52	11 00	23 00	85	64	13	12	12½	12	12	112	27	6	10	1	6
3 124 60	2 44	8 00	18 00	44	30	13	10	13	10	10	51	5	2	2	1	14
4 33 52	1 97		10 00	17		7		7		7	17	4	3	1	1	3
5 82 35	2 17	7 00	15 00	24	24	8	10	8	10	10	38	3	2	2	1	6
6 41 69	1 81	7 33			23		12		12	12	23	5	2	1	1	3
7 82 66	1 97	8 00	9 00	32	25	12½	7		19½	42	42	4	1	1	1	6
8 43 25	1 38		18 00	32		8½		8½		32		1				
9 69 12																
10 31 52	1 75		12 00	18		5½		5½		18			1			4
11 49 97	2 08	8 00	11 00	22	19	8	7	8	7	7	24		2	2	2	27
12 30 90	1 47		8 50	21		10½			10½		21		2	1	1	8
13 19 61	46	8 00	14 00	31	30	7	8	7	8	8	43		4			6
14 41 23		6 00			17		8									
15 40 71	2 71		8 00	15		10			10	10	15		2			
16 26 61	1 77	6 00	6 84	15	6	10	6		16	16	15	3	4	3	5	
17 195 88	1 46	*18 00	*32 00	101	89	9	9		9	9	134		6			1
18 51 22	1 83	6 00	8 00	18	18	9	6	6		15	28		5			
19 48 20	1 50			32		12½	6		12½	32			4			
20 27 11	1 81		9 00	15		15			15	15			2	1	1	14
21 57 77	1 70		10 00	36	28	10	6		16	34	4		4	3	4	
22 51 02	1 16	8 00	10 00	43	32	8½	5½		14½	44	2		3			12
23 17 74																

\* Wages of both teachers.

JOHN K. YOUNG,  
BENJ. F. PLUMER, { Sup. School Com.  
S. G. ABBOTT,